

024A

POLICY 10-11

DAY LD

BY WARREN L. NELSON

*Press reporting on resupply efforts
by U.S. & Soviets. HAK, SCOWCROFT, LL*

WASHINGTON (UPI) -- THE SOVIET UNION AND THE UNITED STATES ARE BOTH RESUPPLYING THEIR CLIENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, RAISING FEARS OF DEEPENING BIG POWER INVOLVEMENT IN THE ARAB-ISRAELI SHOWDOWN.

U.S. OFFICIALS ANNOUNCED WEDNESDAY THAT SOVIET CARGO PLANES HAD BEEN SIGHTED FLYING INTO SYRIA AND EGYPT ON A SHUTTLE SCHEDULE FAR MORE EXTENSIVE THAN AT ANYTIME IN THE PAST.

AT THE SAME TIME THE NORFOLK, VA., LEDGER-STAR REPORTED A PLANE WITH ISRAELI MARKINGS HAD BEEN LOADED WITH BOMBS AND MISSILES AT THE OCEANA NAVAL AIR STATION NEAR NORFOLK.

STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ROBERT MCCLOSKEY SAID OF THE SOVIET SHUTTLE, "IF THIS TURNS OUT TO BE A MASSIVE AIRLIFT IT WOULD TEND TO PUT A NEW FACE ON THE SITUATION" IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

THE KEY WORD WAS "MASSIVE." THERE WAS NO INDICATION THE ADMINISTRATION YET CONSIDERED THE AIRLIFT MASSIVE.

MCCLOSKEY ALSO POINTED TO A STATEMENT MADE MONDAY BY SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER, THAT, "DETENT CANNOT SURVIVE IRRESPONSIBILITY IN ANY AREA, INCLUDING THE MIDDLE EAST." MCCLOSKEY SAID THAT "STILL STANDS."

MILITARY SOURCES SAID THE SHUTTLE FLIGHTS OF AN22 CARGO PLANES HAVE BEEN CITED IN THE AIR BUT THAT IT WAS NOT KNOWN FOR CERTAIN WHAT WAS BEING CARRIED.

IT WAS UNLIKELY MIG FIGHTERS WOULD BE CARRIED THAT WAY, THEY SAID, BUT TANKS MIGHT. THE PRIMARY RESUPPLY NEEDS OF THE SYRIANS AND EGYPTIANS WERE BELIEVED TO BE ANTI-TANK AND ANTI-AIRCRAFT MISSILES, WHICH ARE BEING CONSUMED AT A RAPID RATE.

THE NORFOLK NEWSPAPER QUOTED WITNESSES AS SAYING BOMBS AND TWO KINDS OF AIR TO AIR MISSILES--THE SPARROW AND THE SIDEWINDER--WERE LOADED ON THE PLANE. DURING THE LOADING SAILORS COVERED THE MARKINGS WITH MASKING TAPE AND PAPER, THE NEWSPAPER QUOTED ITS SOURCES.

A SOURCE AT THE AIR STATION TOLD THE NEWSPAPER ANOTHER BOEING 707 WITH ISRAELI MARKINGS WAS LOADED WITH ARMS LAST SATURDAY, THE FIRST DAY OF THE WAR.

THE PENTAGON'S OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN DECLINED TO DISCUSS ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE RESUPPLY OF ISRAEL. BUT OTHER OFFICIALS SAID A MODERATE LEVEL OF RESUPPLIES WAS CONTINUING TO FLOW.

SEN. GEORGE AIKEN OF VERMONT, THE RANKING REPUBLICAN ON THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, SAID HE WOULD CONSIDER IT "HIGHLY INADVISABLE" TO CONTINUE THE FLOW OF SUPPLIES TO ISRAEL NOW.

UPI 10-11 83:42 AED

0742 Z